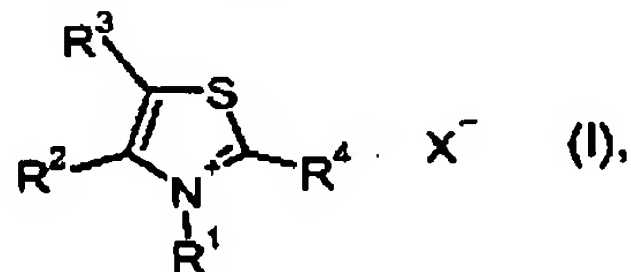


IN THE CLAIMS:

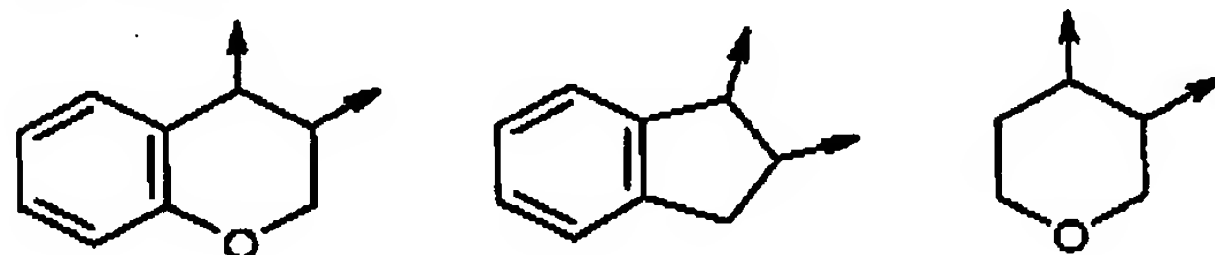
Please cancel Claims 4, 6-10, and 12-13.

1. (Original) A compound of the formula (I)



in which

- R<sup>1</sup> represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy,
- R<sup>2</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy, benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, or pyrrolyl, thienyl, naphthyl, or benzothiophenyl, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkyl,
- R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, or
- R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together represent -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO<sub>2</sub>, carboxyl, carbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkoxy or the optionally halogen-, NO<sub>2</sub>-, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl-, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkyl-, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy-, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkoxy-substituted groups having the formulas



where the arrows mark the points of linkage to the thiazole ring, and

$n$  represents 3, 4 or 5,

$R^4$  represents bromine or chlorine, and

$X^-$  represents chloride, bromide, iodide, hydrogen sulfate,  $\frac{1}{2}$  equivalent of sulfate, sulfate, hexachloroantimonate, methanesulfonate,

trifluoromethanesulfonate, *p*-toluenesulfonate, tetrafluoroborate,

tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate,

excluding the compounds 2-bromo-3-ethyl-4-methylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate and 2-bromo-3-ethyl-4-methylthiazolium hexachloroantimonate, 2-chloro-3-ethyl-4-methylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate and 2-chloro-3-ethyl-4-methylthiazolium hexachloroantimonate, 2-bromo-3-methyl-4-phenylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate, 2-chloro-3-ethyl-4,5-dimethylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate, and 2-chloro-3,4-dimethylthiazolium tetrafluoroborate.

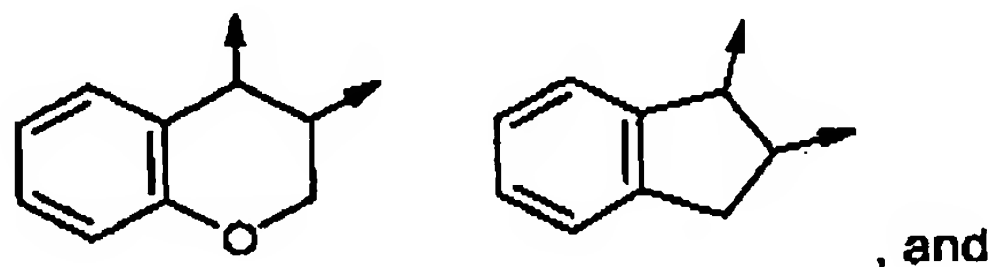
2. (Original) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 1 wherein

$R^1$  represents methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, *n*- or *i*-propyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, or *n*- or *i*-propoxy,

$R^2$  represents methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, isobutyl, or benzyl or phenyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, *n*- or *i*-propyl, methoxy, ethoxy, or *n*- or *i*-propoxy,

$R^3$  represents hydrogen or methyl, or

$R^2$  and  $R^3$  together represent  $-(CH_2)_n-$  substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, or carbonyl or the groups having the formulas



$n$  represents 3 or 4,

$R^4$  represents bromine, and

X<sup>-</sup> represents bromide, ½ equivalent of sulfate, sulfite, SbCl<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>, mesylate, triflate, tosylate, tetrafluoroborate, tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate.

3. (Original) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 1 wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents methyl, ethyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine,

R<sup>2</sup> represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, or phenyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, or ethyl,

R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, or

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together represent -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, or carbonyl, and

X<sup>-</sup> represents bromide, ½ equivalent of sulfate, sulfite, or tetrafluoroborate.

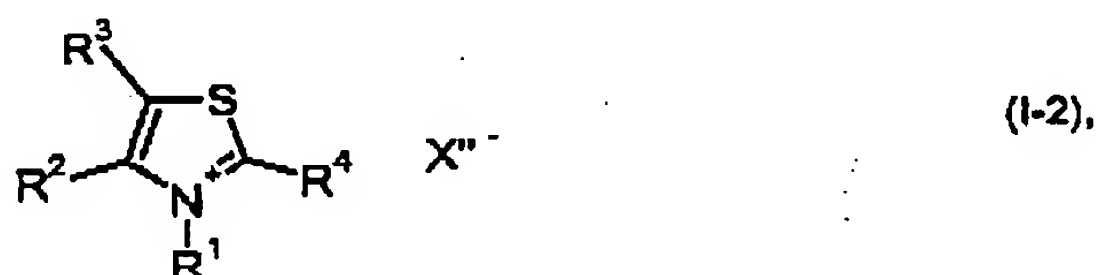
4. Cancelled

5. (Original) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 1 wherein

R<sup>4</sup> represents bromine.

6-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A compound of the formula (I-2)

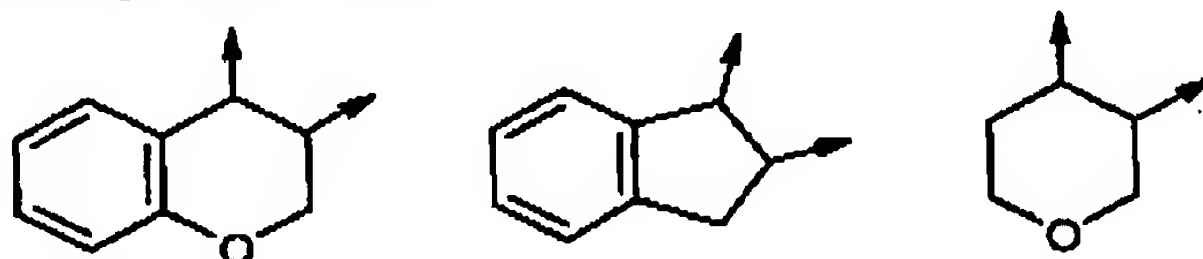


in which

R<sup>1</sup> represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy,

R<sup>2</sup> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylsulfonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkoxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylcarbonyloxy, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy, benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-

alkoxy, or pyrrolyl, thienyl, naphthyl, or benzothiophenyl, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkyl, R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, or R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> together represent -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO<sub>2</sub>, carboxyl, carbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkoxy or the optionally halogen-, NO<sub>2</sub>-, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl-, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkyl-, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy-, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-halogenoalkoxy-substituted groups having the formulas



where the arrows mark the points of linkage to the thiazole ring, and n represents 3, 4 or 5,

R<sup>4</sup> represents bromine or chlorine, and

X<sup>m-</sup> represents tetrafluoroborate, tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate, with the exception of compounds in which R<sup>4</sup> represents bromine and R<sup>2</sup> represents CH<sub>3</sub> when R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen or CH<sub>3</sub>; in which R<sup>4</sup> represents chlorine and R<sup>2</sup> represents CH<sub>3</sub> when R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen; and in which R<sup>4</sup> represents bromine and R<sup>2</sup> represents ethyl when R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen.

12-13. (Cancelled)